



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Kirk Francis
President
USET Sovereignty Protection Fund
Washington, DC 20001

JUL 06 2018

Dear President Francis:

Thank you for your letter dated April 13, 2018, regarding the reorganization efforts at the Department of the Interior (Department). Secretary Zinke has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Department is committed to upholding the Department's trust responsibilities and strengthening Federal-Tribal relations. On May 17, 2018, we issued the enclosed letter to Tribal leaders, which formally initiated the Tribal consultation process.

The reorganization of the Department is a large scale effort, and Tribal input is critical as we work to assess any potential impacts to Tribes. The reorganization is intended to devolve more decisions to the field, increase the number of our employees who interact directly with the public, improve inter-Bureau and intergovernmental coordination, and achieve efficiencies in activities and functions that do not directly contribute to citizen services.

Preliminary planning efforts are underway, but no decisions have been made regarding realignment of regional boundaries or regional offices.

We encourage you and other Tribal leaders and members to attend the upcoming consultation sessions scheduled through August. The Department values and appreciates the input from Tribal Nations on ways to enhance efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of the Department, specifically the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

Your input – and that of other Tribal leaders – will determine the extent to which BIA is involved in the reorganization of the Department. We look forward to working with your organization and the Tribes as we continue planning efforts.

A similar letter has been sent to the cosigner of your letter.

Sincerely,

Scott J. Cameron
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Policy, Management and Budget
*Exercising the Authority of the Assistant Secretary
for Policy, Management and Budget*

Enclosure